REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	14 November 2003
Name of applicant/court:	Secretary for Internal Affairs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	FHM 58, February 2003
Other Known Title(s):	FHM February 2003
Director(s):	Not Applicable
Producer(s):	Not Applicable
Publisher:	EMAP Australia
Author(s):	Not Applicable
Format:	Magazine Periodical
Country of Origin:	Australia
Language(s):	English

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature: Running Time:

Trailers: Running Time:

Total Running Time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

Display Conditions:

That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown on the publication or any package in which the publication is kept.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The magazine entitled *FHM 58, February 2003* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of sixteen years.

FHM is a glossy magazine aimed primarily at adult heterosexual men. It contains a miscellany of articles, advertisements and features most of which have a laddish, joking tone. The classification is primarily due to the manner in which the publication treats sexual matters. There are representations of sexual activity, numerous pin up style photographs including nudity, and relatively explicit sexual references. There are some moderately degrading, dehumanising and demeaning elements in terms of the magazine's presentation of women. The magazine also has a sensational treatment of other matters such as crime, violence, natural disasters, and physical illness.

The sexual content and more graphic descriptions and depictions of violence, illness and serious physical harm are likely to be disturbing for younger children. The magazine requires some maturity on the part of the reader to recognise the humorous and self-satirising elements and put the sexual material and other material into context. The availability of the publication is therefore likely to be injurious to the public good unless it is restricted to the older teenage and adult audience for whom it is intended. The provisions of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 have been taken into account in determining this classification. Restricting the magazine to persons aged 16 years or over is sufficient to minimise the risk of injury to the public good, and represents the minimum interference with freedom of expression consistent with Parliament’s intention to prevent likely injury to the public good.

OFLC No: 300405